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Central and Eastern European Migrant Workers – Work, Employment and Crime

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The numbers of CEE migration employed in the UK

CHOICE

CEE migration - the facts? (Nino employed and self-employed)



May 2004 – 2013

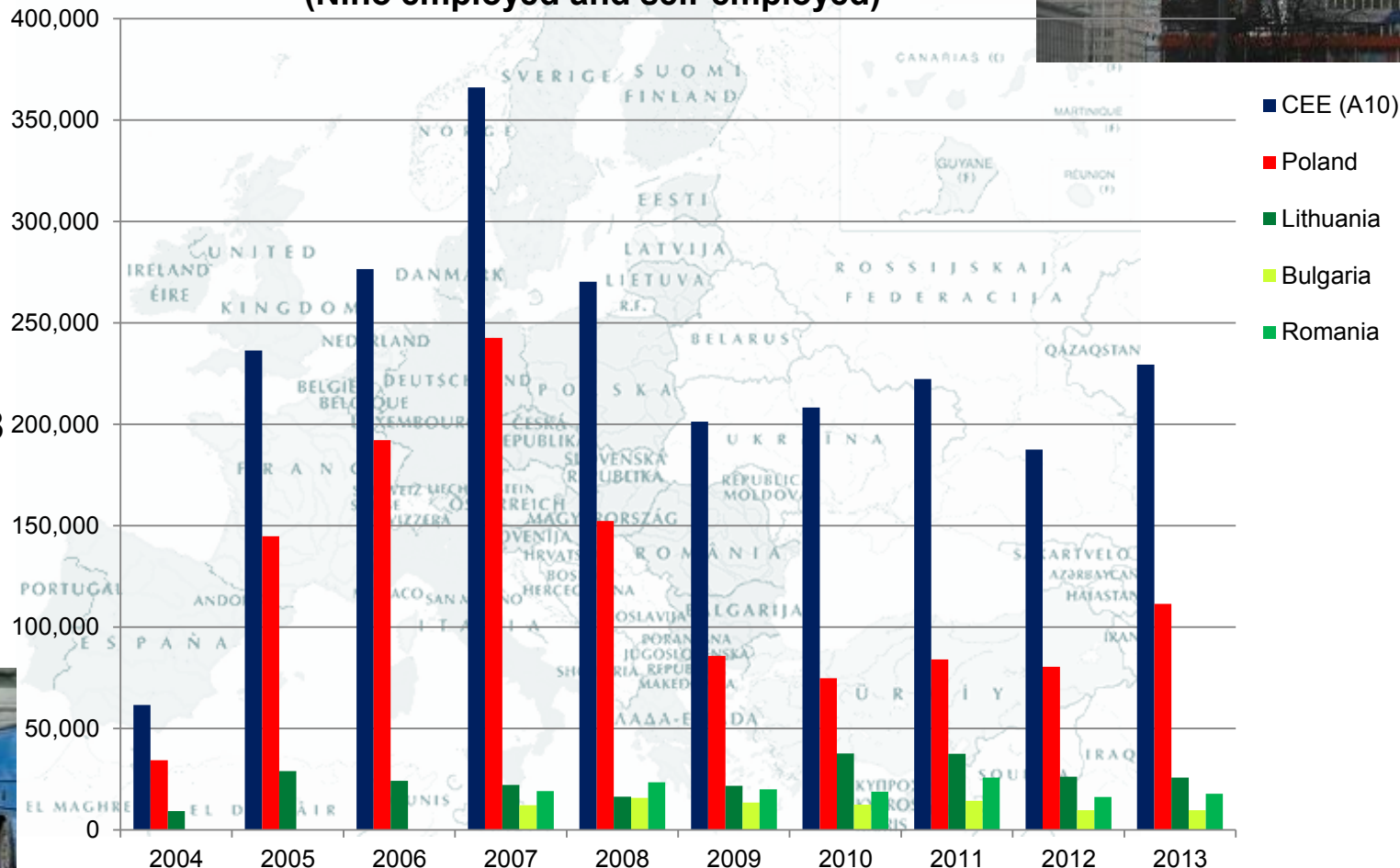
CEE 2,259,338

Poland 1,202,535

Lithuania 250,498

Romania 141,614

Bulgaria 88,189

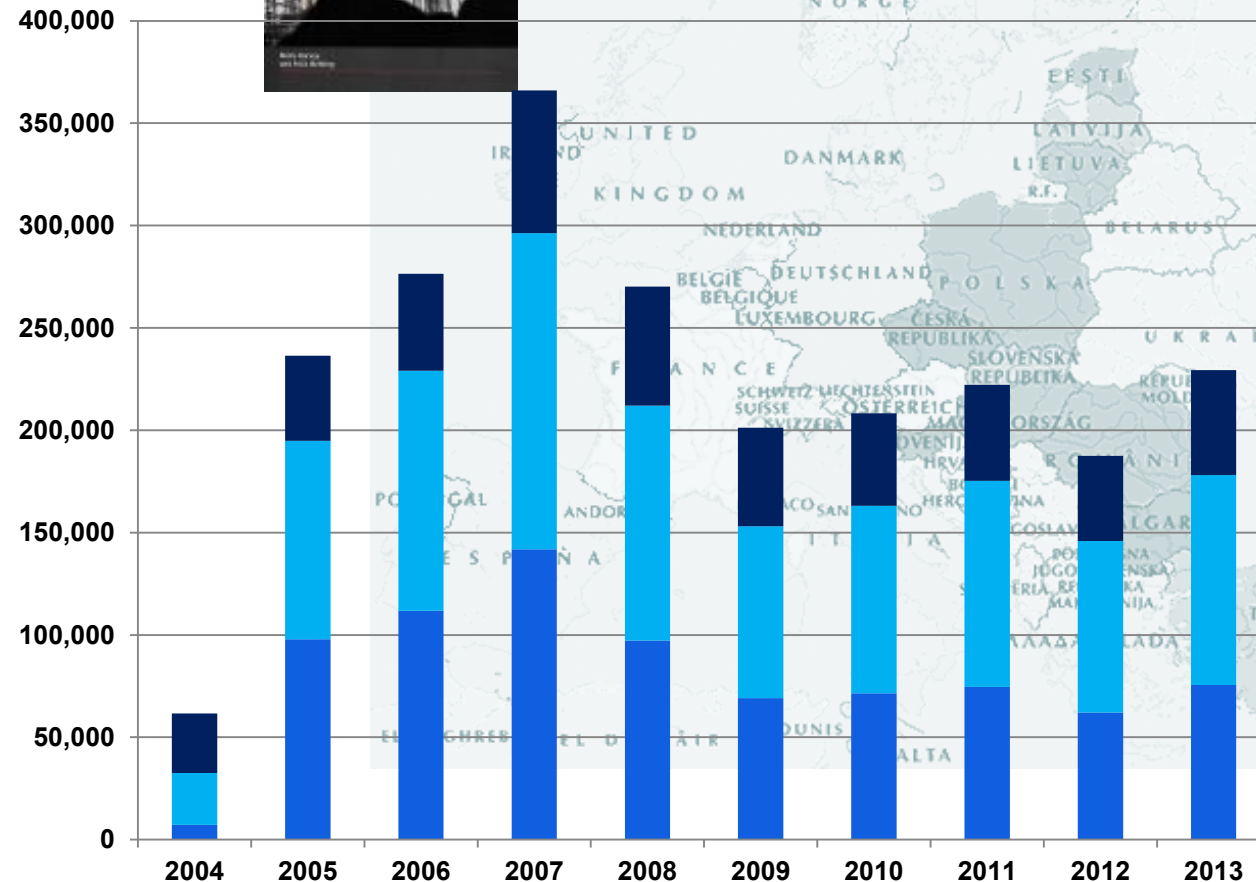


A new type of migration?



The characteristics of CEE employment - Transient and young

1. Those who had jobs;
2. The self-employed;
3. The 'free marketeers'.



■ Year total
■ 16-24
■ 25-34

16-24
971,287
(43%)

25-34
809,069
(36%)

16-34
1,780,356 (79%)

Hidden Crime Case 1 - Free Movement

Article 45 - Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:

- Look for a job in another EU country
- Enjoy equal treatment with nationals in access to employment, working conditions and all other social and tax advantages



News > UK news > Immigration and asylum

Wisbech: the end of the road for migrant workers

Most of Wisbech's 10,000 migrant workers have travelled from eastern Europe with dreams of earning a better living – but many find themselves housed in squalid conditions, exploited by corrupt gangmasters



Amelia Gentleman

Follow @ameliegentleman

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The Guardian, Wednesday 8 October 2014 17:29 BST

Jump to comments (499)



Fenland district council officers, police and fire fighters carry out house inspections in Wisbech. Photograph: Andy Hall for the Guardian

Vera, 56, says she doesn't know who she lives with or the name of the owner who rents her room to her. She is unable to explain her presence in the country.

Police invested resources in Operation Pheasant following a surge in shoplifting, homelessness and assaults.

News > World news > Migration

Series: Modern-day slavery in focus

Anti-slavery group 'dumbfounded' by illegal gangmaster's weak sentence

Outcry after Romanian migrant Gheorge Ionas fined £500 for forcing Armagh apple pickers to endure 'extreme exploitation'

Felicity Lawrence

The Guardian, Wednesday 8 October 2014 16:41 BST



Gheorge Ionas paid migrant workers less than the minimum wage to pick apples for a farmer with several orchards (not pictured). Photograph: Cephas/Alamy

A gangmaster who kept Romanian agricultural workers in inhumane conditions in Northern Ireland while operating illegally has walked away from court with a £500 fine, provoking an outcry from rights groups and the Gangmaster Licensing Authority.



Conclusion:

- Increasingly flexible EU labour market is being exploited by:
 - Large and small employers;
- UK enforcement is weakening;
 - EU & other national enforcement?



Hidden Crime Case 2 - Construction

TUC project 2005 - 2006

Subcontractor: KDES

Owners: Polish women & English man

Employment: Poland

Travel: Own cars and public transport

Accommodation

Conditions of employment

Bank accounts

Conclusion:

- No police intervention;
- Difficult to engage with workers;
- Finally able to exercise free movement.

Employer hostility

Free movement or forced labour?

Conclusion - Regulation

(1) Treaty of Maastricht (1992) emphasised liberalisation (free market) but also legitimised Social Europe – Social partners;

**(2) Extensive hidden crime from 2004 – to date;
Little real action to identify and prosecute offenders and little punishment if convicted;
This hidden crime leads to CEE crime which is prosecuted;**

**(3) Research/practitioner opportunities – as now when there is recognition authorities are stretched;
Cross-border engagement is vital;**

A cross-disciplinary approach is required.